

Invitations To Reds Now Expected But Not Bulganin Or Khrushchev

By Marguerite Higgins
WASHINGTON, May 28.

President Eisenhower has decided in principle that the United States will accept a Soviet invitation to send high level Air Force representation to view Moscow's celebration of Aviation Day on June 24, according to high diplomatic sources.

This subject was among those touched on today by the President in a conference with Gen. Nathan F. Twining, Air Force Chief of Staff, who may himself head the delegation; Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Herbert Hoover Jr., Under Secretary of State, and Adm. Arthur W. Radford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Not Asking Broader Scope

At the same time, it was authoritatively learned that, contrary to reports, the Administration does not intend to impose as a precondition to acceptance of the Soviet invitation the requirement that its scope be broadened to include other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

It was explained that the special Air Force delegation's visit to Moscow would undoubtedly be reciprocated by invitations for comparable visits of Soviet leaders and that as exchanges continue it was conceivable that other members of the Joint Chiefs may make similar trips.

The original invitation to the Air Force by the Soviet air attaché in Washington was oral. A formal invitation was delivered to the Pentagon late today by Col. Philip Bachinsky, the Soviet air attaché, and his assistant, diplomatic officials said, but its exact wording was not made known.

Sokolovsky Invitation

Last week's oral invitation stated that Marshal Vsevolod Sokolovsky, Soviet Chief of Staff, invited Gen. Twining to send a delegation (including possibly himself) to observe the Soviet Aviation Day celebration.

Those in the Administration

of the American representation the more the Russians would be prepared to show.

Formal announcement by the White House will await final action on the invitation as well as a decision as to how many Air Force officers should go.

There is no intention at this point of extending the military exchanges into the political field by asking Communist party chief Nikita S. Khrushchev or Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai A. Bulganin to visit this country despite broad hints from them that they would like to do so.

However, the United States will try to broaden the scope of the exchanges in the sense of pressing the Russians to liberalize their attitude in such things as censorship of the press, granting of radio facilities, etc.

Congressional reaction to the prospect of accepting purely military invitations has been generally favorable. There has been very vocal opposition, however, from such leaders as Sen. William F. Knowland, R., Calif., to the idea of inviting any political figures such as the Soviet Prime Minister and the party chief.

There has been some opposition to the prospect of high level military exchanges on the ground that this show of hospitality might cause the American people to let down their guard.

But White House advisers have pointed out that the United States cannot take a consistently negative attitude toward Soviet overtures without seeming to be on the defensive and in the position of raising its own iron curtain. A defensive attitude is considered particularly awkward in that many of America's weaker allies have already had extensive exchanges with the Russians.

Also, President Eisenhower is convinced that every effort should be made to broaden chinks in the Iron Curtain when they appear.

Military visits are easier to control than those of politicians, diplomats or even prominent American citizens and, in the Administration's judgment, are a good way of beginning exchanges on a high level, officials here say.

Will Show New Planes

The Russians have also invited a substantial number of Western governments, including Great Britain, to send delegations to their June 24 Aviation Day observance. The Russian aerial display, it is reported, may prove something jolting to American air observers as the Russians are thought to be ready with some new-type planes with nuclear capabilities as well as new high flying tankers.

For more than six months the Russians have been taking diplomatic soundings as to whether America's top level military officers, including members of the Joint Chiefs, would be interested in a look at military installations.